



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JUNE 16, 2024 † ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

God loves to create beautiful things. God has a vision of perfect unity in diversity that reflects the totality of creation, humanity, and the infinity of the universe. Creating beauty is not always easy. Beauty reflects the unity of the coordinating aspects of nature, will, and freedom to participate. Beauty is a virtue and expression of love. The beauty and symphony of the rhythms and colors of nature are a good example.

I can only imagine the love Jesus had for nature and the beauty known in his native land of Israel. Jesus must have pondered the beauty of wood as he worked with Joseph to create sturdy and appealing works of construction. Early life in Israel, like today, depended on the land to produce the plants and vegetables from the earth to sustain viable life and society.

It is obvious to understand why Jesus would use images of agriculture and farming to teach about the Kingdom of God. The beauty of God's vision for his creation was focused on a Kingdom that will one day come to fruition in the unity and justice of Divine love taught by Jesus. Today's parables highlight the wisdom and accessible understanding for those who seek to share in the coming of the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is tangible yet not able to be grasped, which is why Jesus is fond of saying 'the Kingdom of God is like.' Keep this in mind as we consider the images used by Jesus. The seed images faith and the various processes it goes through coming to fruition. The farmer does his work preparing the soil, weeding, plowing, and fertilizing. He plants good seeds. Despite all his efforts, he takes his rest not knowing how or if the seed will grow. Faith is like that too. Attentive work is required to mature in faith, yet the believer does not know how or when his faith will bear good fruit. Only God can make the seed grow, and only God can bring faith to life through the gift of grace.

Jesus takes care to explain the process. First, the seed is planted in the soil unseen and hidden underground. Faith is similarly hidden and unseen until the stirrings of the heart are perceived. The buried seed must first be softened by the earth's moisture and warmth to break open so that the blade begins to appear. Then the ear appears. Interesting name. As faith stirs in the heart, the inner ear must listen to its meaning and invitation. In a growing plant, the ear is like a spike that has a central stem tightly packed with flowers. The flowers produce fruits and the fruits bear seeds, each growing in

proper order. Faith follows a similar process. First, it is hidden. Then the heart is stirred and begins to listen. Like the kernel of the seed, there must be an opening to receive nourishment that allows the faith to grow. The heart opens to faith, listening to its rhythms of growth that produce various kinds of fruit.

Lastly, the ear produces the full grain, and the harvest time has come. Growing plants and faith takes time and patience. The wisdom of the plant is that it does not reveal its secret. Faith is similar. Who knows why God stirs a heart that produces abundantly, while another strives yet seems less fruitful? Sometimes the slow growers produce the greatest beauty at the most unlikely times.

Faith is dependent on the environment it is given to grow. Some environments are ideal, while others are less than ideal. The soil of an open heart is essential to nurture the seeds of faith. Any believer must attend to the quality of the soil and the nourishment the heart needs to mature in faith. Is the heart divided by competing interests of various distractions, occupations, or temptations? A sincere desire for faith, like the farmer, must surrender control to God who alone can produce the transforming power of faith. Any good farmer will be well schooled in patience, curiosity, and attentive awareness. Faith seekers would be wise to do the same.

Jesus accentuates God's power to transform even the smallest seed into the largest plant. Again, this is an image of what the Kingdom of God is like. People will inevitably feel their lives are small and of little consequence, yet one never knows how God is using even the smallest seed seeking great faith. Think of the Christmas classic, "It's a Wonderful Life." Old George Bailey had no idea the good his simple life produced.

What about the life of the Rich Young Man? Did he ever wake up and surrender to the Lord in faith? How about the man at the pool for thirty-eight years that Jesus healed in a moment. Did he accept that grace? We know the story of Peter and all his bumbling missteps that in the end bore the fruit of the Church to which we belong.

God sees your life as beautiful. Give attentive awareness to the seeds of faith in your heart. Be open. Allow God to till the soil, open the seed, and bear much fruit. The grace of transformation is up to God. You only have to say yes and listen.

Father John Esper



DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Adoration Chapel**

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



**Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and
Sunday 9:00am**

**Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am to 10:00am**

**Livestream of Rosary on Thursday
following Mass**

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website



ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,
Closed Friday, Saturday & Sunday**

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office

248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

**For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720**



MONDAY, June 17, 2024

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

TUESDAY, June 18, 2024

8:00am Mass: Diane LePage† req. by Mary Jane Guc

WEDNESDAY, June 19, 2024

8:00am Mass: Larry Celmer† req. by Frank & Nina Virga

THURSDAY, June 20, 2024

8:00am Mass: For Healing of SVF Parishioners who are ill req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

SATURDAY, June 22, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

Reno Family (Fro Healing) req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

SUNDAY, June 23, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Anna Perry† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Jacqueline Mason† req. by Patricia Mason

Deceased Parishioners of St. Anthony Lithuanian Church closed in 2013 req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

Sherry Zajac† req. by Mary James

Rose & Jack Armstrong† req. by Mary James

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



June 16, 2024

- Sunday: Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34
- Monday: 1 Kgs 21:1-16/Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7/Mt 5:38-42
- Tuesday: 1 Kgs 21:17-29/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16/Mt 5:43-48
- Wednesday: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Ps 31:20, 21, 24/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Sir 48:1-14/Ps 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7/Mt 6:7-15
- Friday: 2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20/Ps 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18/Mt 6:19-23
- Saturday: 2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34/Mt 6:24-34

ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

Admin. Bldg. Patio

THIS MONDAY - JUNE 17th
7:00pm



The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the first and third Mondays of June thru August.

If the weather is intolerable, we will not meet but ask all to pray the rosary in private. The Immaculata group prayers will be at 6:30 pm and the Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What are the three religious vows that consecrated monastic men and women of the Church take?

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Answer: Poverty, chastity, and obedience.



Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.

We are using CSA 2024 also as a fundraiser this year and are asking parishioners to prayerfully consider an increase in their contribution or pledge to help reach our goal of \$88,000.

To make a pledge or contribute by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided. **Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN.**

Donations can be made online at our website: www.stvincentferrer.net using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card.

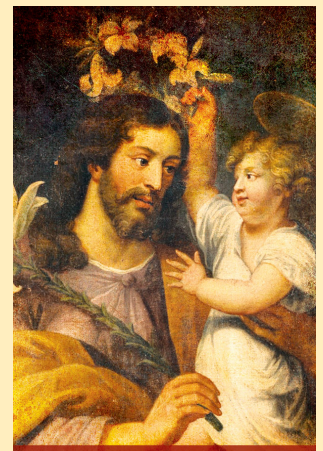
For those who are not registered parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer, but who would like to help us reach our goal, pledge card packets are available at the parish office or at the long table alongside the chapel wall near the Herbert Street vestibule door.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OF THE FATHERS OUT THERE! INCLUDING:

GOD, OUR FATHER

- FATHERS WHO HAVE LOST CHILDREN
- FATHERS ESTRANGED FROM THEIR KIDS
- FATHERS WHO HAVE ADOPTED CHILDREN
- FATHERS WHO GAVE A CHILD UP FOR ADOPTION



FR. JOHN ESPER AND ALL CLERGY

- SPIRITUAL FATHERS
- GRANDFATHERS
- STEFATHERS
- FOSTER FATHERS
- FATHERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED MISCARRIAGE
- AND ALL WHO IDENTIFY WITH FATHERHOOD

God and Father of all creation, we come before you today with humble hearts. You are our model of a loving father. When we fail and fall short of your expectations, you are always there at the end of the day with open arms, ready to heal the cuts and scrapes of the day and to encourage us to try again and not to give up. We hold up these men in our midst who act in the world as fathers to their children or models of fathers for others. Bless them in their moments of doubt and frustration with their children. Give them warm and open hearts to forgive failures. Provide them with the words needed for encouragement and perseverance. We ask all this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES ARE NEEDED TO HOST THE TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE



Please commit to hosting the Traveling Vocations Chalice for one week. Prayers come with the chalice. Sign up sheets are at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert door entrance.



Use Your Gifts Wisely

You could buy a meal for a person who is hungry or for a person who just ate a feast. You could spend time with a lonely person or with someone who has more friends than you. You could step forward to join a parish committee that your experience and knowledge can help, or you can join a ministry where you will constantly struggle to figure out what to do. All of the above actions involve you giving and sharing yourself and your gifts. But not all of these actions will bear good fruit.

If a sower sows seeds only on rocky or weed-infested soil, nothing of great value will grow. But if that same sower plants his seeds in rich soil, then the harvest will one day be great. In all of the soils, the seed is being sown, but it is not the act of sowing that is the most important factor.

In living a stewardship way of life, we must discern how best to share our gifts. Discernment needs the Holy Spirit and a desire to follow God's will, not our own. Our own desires and misconceptions can cause us to use our gifts unwisely. The more mindful we are of how, when, and why we are sharing ourselves, than the greater the impact for God's glory. God wants all of you, but not in a way that is without understanding and discernment. He wants you to shine as a light to the world through your stewardship just as He came to you as the Light of the World in baptism. You can't shine brightly if the match does not hit the wick.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

My mother and father fell in love with each other rather quickly. It was only a span of two months between their first meeting and quiet betrothal. They waited for a significant period of time before going public with the happy news. It simply wasn't time. Love's strength and speed can sprout scandal in public. Until the big reveal, they gave the outside world only little hints, gestures, and riddles.

Something like this — but even more wonderful — is at play when Mark says of Jesus, "**he did not speak to them without a parable, but to his disciples in private he explained everything.**" Jesus is the long-awaited messiah-king, but his identity as the Lord and Son of God is so new, surprising, and scandalous to human ears that the big reveal would have to wait. Thus, his parables are riddles, meant to conceal more than reveal. Even the disciples — who hear things explained directly — barely grasp what he is up to. It's only at the cross that Jesus' love for Israel and the world is explicitly revealed. Until then, much stays hidden and comes in riddles.

So it goes with us, too. I wonder at times why doesn't the Lord just speak to us directly in prayer about what we should do, or how to fix our problems. Or why doesn't he reveal himself directly to powerful leaders who are slow to act? Why does he allow life so often to be confounding, contradictory, and crazy? Because it simply isn't time yet. One glorious day, it will be. Until then, he teaches us in riddles, and only sometimes explains them.

Father John Muir
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Pray For...

...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to

world wars and tensions.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, wars, floods, earthquakes and disasters.

...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests.

Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen



- Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day
- Wednesday: St. Romuald, Abbot
- Thursday: World Refugee Day
- Friday: St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
- Saturday: St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Sts. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs
- Next Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi

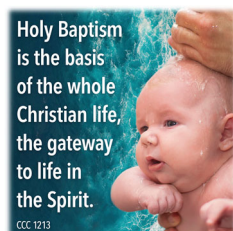
On Sunday, June 9, 2024
Reverend John Esper
Administered the Sacrament of
Baptism to

Hadley James Ciske

We welcome her into
Christ's family.

May she grow strong in her faith.

May God bless our newly baptized and her family.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

GOSPEL DIFFERENCES

Question: Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn't this take away from their credibility?

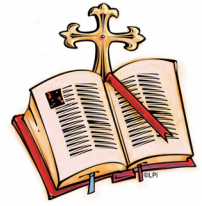
Answer: Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective, and past experience shades what we recall and how we recall it. Our choice of words and what details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales.

The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church's experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, June 22nd at 9am
Faith Formation Office in School



The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Ez 17:22-24

During their captivity and exile in Babylon, God assured the Israelites He would restore them into a mighty majestic cedar tree. How do you find comfort in times of despair?

Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:6-10

Paul teaches the Corinthians to aspire to please the Lord, no matter your present circumstances. What could you do this week at home or at work to please the Lord?

Gospel: Mk 4:26-34

We hear how Jesus often spoke in parables about the kingdom of God, stretching people's thinking and imaginations. Where do you see the kingdom of God at work?

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Ministry Schedule

June 22/23, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	T Karolski
Reader #1	R Pasiak	D Gray
Reader #2	D Tourville	T Karolski
EME	M Kairis	D Gray
	P Miles	L Yolkiewicz
	J McCown	M Waskowski
Greeters	M Smith	M McLaughlin
	P Miles	P Rarus
	R Pasiak	B Turchin
	T Pasiak	D McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of June 22/23, 2024
Michelle Waskowski

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Faith can start small, Jesus tells us — as small as the tiniest seed on earth. But it's up to us to surround that seed with good, nutritious soil, to nourish it with sunlight and water, and to tend to it lovingly so that it will grow.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What was originally painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel before Michaelangelo's fresco?

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Answer: Gold stars on a blue background.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX (1873-1897)



St. Thérèse of Lisieux was born in France, the youngest of nine children. Her mother died when she was four. Thérèse was described as being sensitive and precocious as a child.

Thérèse experienced a transformative conversion early on when she saw a vision of Mary, Mother of God. She had fallen ill, and the doctors of her time were unable to diagnose or treat her. She experienced fevers, convulsions, and fearful visions. This lasted until, turning her face to the statue of the Blessed Mother near her bedside, she asked Mary to take pity on her. According to her writings, Thérèse said that she experienced a beautiful vision of Mary. In this vision, when Mary smiled upon her, all her pain and illness disappeared. This experience, *The Healing of Our Lady of the Smile*, contributed to setting Thérèse's heart on pursuing religious life.

When Thérèse was 15, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux, France. She took the name Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face and began a life of prayer and intimacy with God. Despite her struggles with depression, she always put her best foot forward. She tragically died of tuberculosis at age 24 but, before her death, she said "My mission — to make God loved — will begin after my death. I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." Now, she is fondly known as Thérèse the Little Flower of Jesus and roses have become a symbol of her intercession.

During her life, Thérèse wrote several essays cataloguing her pursuit of holiness that were later published under the title "Story of a Soul." These writings earned her the privilege of being the youngest person to ever be designated a Doctor of the Church and continue to be treasured by Catholics world-wide! St. Thérèse, pray for us!

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Living Parables

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Whenever someone begins a sentence with, "This parable means..." I roll my eyes. (Sometimes I do this inwardly, to be polite. But I still do it.)

We have a tendency to treat the parables like our mom's favorite casserole recipe. *Ah yes*, we think as we sit down to dinner, smiling as we inhale the aroma of childhood. *Good ol' mushy-chicken-rice-thing. I recognize you. I know exactly what you are. I don't even have to think about you.*

Parables are often presented as an example of how God stoops to meet the limits of human understanding: truth, but in a cute little story! And while it's certainly true that the parables of Christ — each word, each detail, each character — are painstakingly crafted to suit the imagination and intelligence of man, we need to be careful how we think about that.

Sometimes we have a tendency to think of parables as simple and formulaic. We consign them to the genre of bedtime stories, whose point is to soothe, to lull. But these are stories that are meant to keep us awake. They are meant to keep us wondering.

When Christ spoke of the mustard seed, he was speaking the truth in words that his disciples needed to hear two thousand years ago. But he was also speaking to you today. And he was speaking to you tomorrow, and next year, and three years from now, and on your deathbed. If you read this parable on each of those occasions, you will hear something different each time. The parable, you see, is something alive.

It doesn't change, exactly, because the truth never changes. But people change, and what they need to hear changes too.

Don't ever make the mistake of thinking you can finish Jesus' sentences.

"With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it." — Mark 4:33

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FROM LIGHTER SIDE...

Are there HMOs in Heaven?

A doctor, a nurse, and the top executive of an HMO died and were in line together at the pearly gates. St. Peter asked each one what good they had done in their lives.

The doctor said, "I have devoted my life to the sick and needy and have had a part in caring for and healing thousands of people."

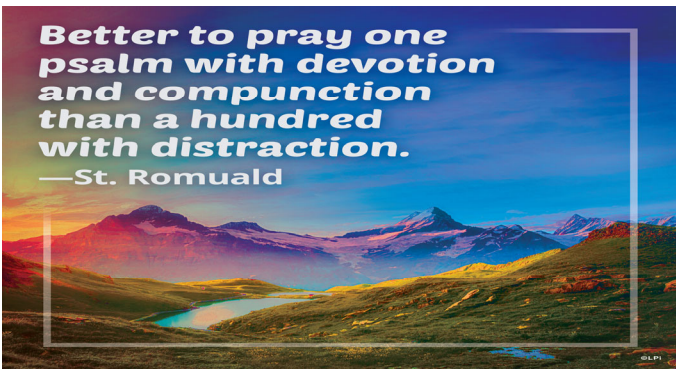
St. Peter replied, "That's great. Go ahead into heaven."

The nurse chimed in, "I have supported the doctor and his patients my entire life as an adult, have taken time to explain things to patients, and have helped them lead healthy lives."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter. "Please proceed in with the doctor."

Then the executive said, "I was the president of a very large health maintenance organization. I was responsible for the healthcare of millions of people all over the country."

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MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY- 8:30am and
4:30pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY-7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am
3:30pm (Spanish), and 6:00pm

WEEKDAYS (*Monday thru Friday*)
6:30am (livestreamed), 8:30am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)
50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin
SUNDAY - 9:00am & 11:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

MON-WED & FRI- 9:00am
Communion Service - St. Justin

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm
SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am
MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am
WED - 12:10pm

Healing Hearts Wounded by Abortion

“because no heart is too broken to be healed”

“Rachel's Vineyard can help you find your inner voice. It can help you experience God's love and compassion on a profound level. It creates a place where men and women can share, often for the first time, their deepest feelings about abortion. You are allowed to dismantle troubling secrets in an environment of emotional and spiritual safety

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Retreats are held in over 375 locations. They offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.”

RACHEL'S VINEYARD WEEKEND RETREATS

July 26–28 (Ann Arbor/Detroit)

August 9–11 (Lansing)

November 8–10 (Ann Arbor/Detroit)

To learn more or to register for a weekend of healing, visit: www.rachelsvineyard.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JUNE 8/9

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	112		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 4,681.64	(611.36)	(2,537.65)
Energy	289.00	85.00	(204.00)	(2,321.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	336.00	(779.39)	(39,359.25)
Mass Intentions	n/a	30.00		5,880.00
Budget deficit donations		102.00		6,314.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 49,470.34				Paid 36,012.84

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